

At 20 U.N.'s Luster Is Tarnished

By Drew Pearson

Twenty years ago, many of the world's statesmen were in San Francisco to sign the charter of the United Nations.

It was a period of great promise, and they signed a document of great hope.

I was in San Francisco during part of the formation of the U.N. and I remember vividly the en-



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thusiasm, the feeling that, despite the mistakes following the 1914-18 "war to end war" we would not make the same mistakes after World War II.

The United States this time would not welsh on the United Nations as it did on the League of Nations. The Senate would not become isolationist again, never would permit a little band of willful men to block the will of the majority in setting up the machinery of peace.

Twenty years have passed since then and today the luster of the U.N. Charter is tarnished; the earlier hope has dimmed.

There has been no time since the launching of the United Nations that it has been so frustrated, its staff members have felt so sterile.

The reasons are many and the faults are two-sided. They

range from a haggle over money to the bypassing of peace-keeping machinery in Southeast Asia to the initial reliance on force in the Dominican Republic.

All of these, with the exception of the Dominican crisis, were inherited by the President. But in the eyes of history that makes no difference. If he fails, all the great programs he has launched at home—education, antipoverity, improved labor relations—come crashing to the ground.

Scenery Unchanged

After Bernard Baruch died, I went out in Lafayette Park and sat on a bench where he used to sit, looking at the White House.

Sitting on the bench I recalled one of the last stories told by Baruch to Elroy McCaw, the New York-Seattle TV magnate, about the most important advice he had ever given to any President.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Baruch said, he got a telephone call from Gen. George Marshall, then Chief of Staff, later to become Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. Marshall said he would like to talk to Baruch right away.

"I'll come down and see you in about an hour," said Marshall.

Advice Negative

When he arrived, Marshall

told the elder statesman that President Truman had been worried about the increasing friction between the United States and Russia. There had been shooting between American and Russian troops in Germany and trouble over the access to Berlin. Truman wondered whether the United States might not have to fight Russia eventually and therefore whether it was not better to do so now. At that time the United States had the advantage of the atomic bomb.

Baruch's advice was negative.

"I would be against it for three reasons," he said. "In the first place, the American people are not ready for such a war. They have just finished a long war, with Russia as an ally.

"Second, the world is not ready for such a war. World opinion would never understand it if the United States should attack its ally now.

"Third," concluded Baruch, "it is my opinion that history will line up the United States and Russia on the one side and the Chinese on the other. Our eventual enemy will be the Chinks."

It is obvious from history that Truman and Marshall took Bernard Baruch's advice. And the present drift of history has shown that the chief problem facing Lyndon, the chief stumbling block to

peace, is, as Baruch put it in his Manhattanese, "the Chinks."

Ray of U.N. Sunshine

Despite the pessimism that pervades the United Nations on this its 20th anniversary, there are some optimistic phases of its work the public doesn't know much about, which offset the pessimism. A modern elder statesman, Paul Hoffman, is the diplomatic architect chiefly responsible for this work. As head of the U.N. Special Fund he is directing 485 projects in some 130 underdeveloped countries and territories, all with money contributed voluntarily by U.N. members.

They range from development of fisheries in Argentina to irrigation advice for Cambodia to a national forestry school in Colombia. More than 1600 international experts carry on this work with around \$150 million to be contributed each year by U.N. members to help smaller nations help themselves.

Hoffman was picked to head the Marshall Plan by the late Sen. Arthur Vandenberg, the one-time Republican isolationist from Michigan who became one of the great champions of international cooperation. It was a wise choice. Today Hoffman is carrying on the same kind of work, not for the United States alone, but for the United Nations.

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